

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-12 (cancelled).

13 (currently amended). A fastener in combination with a tube for securing a said tube to a patient, said fastener comprising a tubular sleeve of variable length capable configured when lengthened of gripping to grip the tube, wherein the tube has a lumen and is adapted to transport fluid to or from a patient.

14 (currently amended). A fastener combination according to claim 13, wherein the sleeve when shortened is capable of sliding along the tube.

15 (currently amended). A fastener combination according to claim 13, further comprising attachment means for attaching the sleeve to a patient.

16 (currently amended). A fastener combination according to claim 15, wherein the attachment means comprises one or more loops.

17 (currently amended). A fastener combination according to claim 16, wherein the or each loop is formed by doubling over the sleeve.

18 (currently amended). A ~~fastener~~ combination according to claim 15, wherein the attachment means comprises a harness, sling or other means adapted to embrace a part of the patient.

19 (currently amended). A ~~fastener~~ combination according to claim 15, wherein the attachment means comprises a pad or flange adapted to lie against part of the patient's body.

20 (currently amended). A ~~fastener~~ combination according to claim 19, wherein the pad or flange is adapted to be adhered or sutured to the patient's body.

21-30 (cancelled).

31 (currently amended). A ~~fastener~~ combination according to claim 13, wherein the sleeve has a perforated or foraminous wall defining a plurality of openings.

32 (currently amended). A ~~fastener~~ combination according to claim 31, wherein an opening is capable of permitting the tube to pass through the wall of the sleeve.

33 (currently amended). A ~~fastener~~ combination according to claim 32, wherein the sleeve wall is a mesh, grid, net or web.

34 (currently amended). A fastener combination according to claim 31, wherein the sleeve is of filamentary construction.

35 (currently amended). A fastener combination according to claim 31, wherein the sleeve is a spirally woven tube.

36 (currently amended) A fastener in combination with a tube, said fastener comprising a tubular sleeve of variable length capable configured when lengthened of gripping to grip the tube for the purpose of securing the tube to a patient, wherein the tube has a lumen and is adapted to transport fluid to or from a patient.

37-38 (cancelled).

39 (previously presented). In combination, a fastener in combination with a tube as defined in claim 13 and instructions for its use in securing a said tube to a patient.

40-45 (cancelled).